

The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services



T H E H E R T L I N E

T A K I N G T H E P U L S E

COVERING VOLUNTEERISM AND SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH

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3rd Quarter/July 2006 Edition

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: GTD4KY

The mission of the Getting Things Done for Kentucky's Homeless (GTD4KY) AmeriCorps program is to insure that low-income families and individuals find and keep safe, decent and affordable housing. The program is sponsored by the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky. Members serve as housing counselors, helping low-income families and individuals in permanent, transitional and emergency housing or as construction assistants, serving at non-profit agencies rehabilitating and building housing in low-income communities.

Wendy Lovett is a current GTD4KY member serving as a housing counselor at the Merryman House Domestic Crisis Center in Paducah and this is her story...

Like most of America, living from paycheck to paycheck, a family of five wakes up one morning, gets ready for school, packs lunches and prepares for the day. Eight hours later, they are homeless. An eviction notice has been served because they asked the property owner to fix the septic tank that has left a blanket of sewage covering the front yard...the search begins.

Because the husband has a relatively decent job, the family does not qualify for any assistance. Strangely enough, they can't even get into the homeless shelter. Frustration begins to build and they are very discouraged.

Oddly enough, the oldest daughter, a student at Murray State University, suggests a phone call to a friend of hers that just happens to be a GTD4KY AmeriCorps member.



Housing counselor, Wendy Lovett, is more than happy to help, but the work has to be done after hours because of her current service responsibilities during the day. However, because of the

AmeriCorps experience and the mission of AmeriCorps, she is dedicated to helping whomever, whenever and wherever. This is one of the things learned while being affiliated with such a program.

Phone calls are made and when it gets down to the wire, the

(continued on page 5)

2006 AMERICORPS LAUNCH



The 2006 AmeriCorps Launch will be held at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Frankfort on Sept. 27-29. Members and staff of AmeriCorps*State programs will take part in a variety of training sessions on the first two days of the event. On the final day, the new and returning

AmeriCorps members will be sworn in for a year of service on the steps of the Kentucky State Capitol. The AmeriCorps Launch is an annual event to kick off the program year for AmeriCorps*State programs in Kentucky.

AMERICORPS GRANT INFORMATION

2007-2008 AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities

The Notices of Funds Availability/Notices of Funding Opportunities for fiscal year 2007 are now available to view or download from the Corporation for National and Community Service Web site, www.americorps.org/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp.

Grant Informational Sessions

In the coming months a series of information sessions on applying for AmeriCorps*State grants will be held at various locations around the state. These sessions will include guidance for completing a competitive grant application, explanation of federal rules and tips on writing a better application.

Funding for a new, full AmeriCorps program (10 members or more) is available. The program must address education, environment, public safety, homeland security or other unmet local human needs. Eligible applicants are non-profit organizations with 501(C)3 status, educational institutions, local government entities and state agencies.

As soon as details are available, more information about sessions will be posted on our Web site at www.chfs.ky.gov/dhss/kccvs/ameriCorps/grantinfo. You can also receive information directly to your e-mail inbox by signing up for our e-mail distribution list. Send an e-mail with your name, organization and e-mail address in the body of the message to kccvs@ky.gov. Write "grant informational sessions" in the subject line.

"GETTING THINGS DONE FOR KENTUCKY"

Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE



Throughout the newsletter are small bits for your enjoyment. Keep an eye out for them.



The happy dancing man is always accompanied by a "funny." Lighten your mood a little with a short joke.



The thinking man is followed by wise witty words from many sources. Allow him to engage your mind.



This icon is accompanied by a brain teaser. Go ahead, see if you can catch the solution.



This icon indicates that interesting statistics follow. Based on Pythagorean doctrine, it begs the question: are all things number?

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"Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life...It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop."

— Dr. Dorothy I. Height, American civil rights activist (1912-)

WHO WE ARE

KCCVS COMMISSIONERS

Wendy Stivers, Ph.D., Chair
Douglas Adams, Vice Chair
Phyllis Culp, Secretary
Cindy Ferrell, Finance

Aaron Anderkin
Philip Anderson
Susan Brammer
Amy Burke
W. C. Corbin
Marlene Duffy
Virginia Fox
Patrick Hargadon
Kenneth Knipper
Brandi Moore List
Kitty Pilger

Emily Shelton
Anna G. Smith
Victoria Thompson
Jana Sturm
Alan Taylor
Kate Wenzel
Patricia Winlock

Ex-Officio Member:
Betsy Wells

KCCVS STAFF

Eileen Cackowski – Director
Melissa Newton – Training Officer
Shannon Ramsey – Media & Publications Specialist
Andrea Sieloff, RSM – Program Officer
Lanny Taulbee – Disabilities Coordinator
Marzelle Wurtsmith – Financial Officer

KCCVS MISSION

To promote all Kentuckians working together to meet actual community needs in a way that fosters personal, family and community pride and an enduring ethic of volunteerism and service.

DID YOU KNOW?

Brought to you by www.hookedonfacts.com

- Ears of corn always have an even number of rows of kernels.
- It takes twelve ears of corn to make a tablespoon of corn oil.
- Pollen can travel up to 500 miles in a day.
- A sneeze can travel as fast as 100 miles per hour.
- The earth travels through space at 660,000 miles per hour.
- When glass breaks, the cracks move faster than 3,000 miles per hour.
- Oak trees do not have acorns until they are fifty years old or older.
- A full-grown bear can run as fast as a horse.
- The symbol on the 'pound' key (#) is called an octothorpe.
- The dot over the letter 'i' is called a tittle.
- The population of the Earth has more than doubled since 1950.

Editor: Shannon Ramsey

COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT: CINDY FERRELL



With her background in national service, Cindy Ferrell is tailor-made for the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service. Ferrell is the director of Senior Service Corps for Audubon Area Community Services, Inc. Senior Corps is one of the three national service programs sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Other programs include AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America. Appointed to the KCCVS in 2004, Ferrell recently was named the commission's Financial Officer.

An Owensboro native, Ferrell, has been involved in community service all her life. She has a nursing certificate from the Owensboro School for Licensed Practical Nurses and worked as a nurse for more than four years before joining Audubon as the nutrition coordinator for the Head Start Program. She has been the Senior Service Corps director for almost 20 years.

Ferrell also is certified by the University of Maryland and the National Institute of Senior Involvement for her work in senior volunteerism and is a certified community action manager, Franklin-Covey facilitator, and grant proposal writer.

Ferrell has served on numerous other boards and associations including current positions with the Area Development District Access to Benefits Coalition, United Way Executive Directors Association, Widowed Persons Service Board of Directors, National Association of Senior Companion Program Directors, National Association of Foster Grandparent Program Directors and the National Association of Retired and Senior Volunteer Directors.

"There are so many wonderful things happening in Kentucky that others need to know about and I'm glad that the commission continues to be an avenue to fulfill this need," Ferrell said.

Ferrell and her husband, John, recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. Their son, Zac, is a graduate of Daymar College and daughter Whitney is a junior at Murray State University.

Ferrell's favorite book is *Dibs in Search of Self* by Virginia Axline. She re-reads it often to remind her how just one person can make a difference in the life of another. Ferrell believes a person's life should always be about service to others, family, neighbors and strangers. For Ferrell, success is not measured by material possessions, but in one's legacy. She defines success as, "the way children describe you when talking to a friend."

Her deep-rooted commitment to service to others can be traced back to her childhood. Her parents were always helping others in a quiet, unpretentious kind of way. She also is a fan of big band music and wants to be a "professional volunteer" when she retires.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY 2006



Make A Difference Day is one of the most widely observed national days of helping – a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors in which everyone can participate.

Created by USA Weekend Magazine, Make A Difference Day is an annual event observed on the fourth Saturday of October. This year, MADD falls on Sat., Oct. 28.

The goal of MADD is to inspire and encourage local residents to participate in community service projects. Large or small, as individuals or in groups, one-day or ongoing – the nature of the service isn't as important as simply giving your time, effort, resources, skills or support to make a difference in the lives of people in your community.

To find a project in your area or to register your project, visit the Make A Difference Day Web site at www.usaweekend.com/diffday/. The site has tons of helpful information, including an Idea Generator to help you find a project idea to use in your community. After MADD, you can enter your community project to be considered for an award.

As of the publication date for this article, KCCVS had not finalized its plans for Make A Difference Day 2006. However, the commission will participate and the plan will be posted on the KCCVS Web site at www.chfs.ky.gov/dhss/kccvs/madd at least by Aug. 15, so please check back often.

The KCCVS officers, staff and program members encourage you to be a part of Make A Difference Day 2006, whether on your own, through a local community service agency or project or with us. Everyone can Make A Difference!

NEW COMMISSION OFFICERS

New officers recently were installed to the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service. The Nominating Committee submitted the slate of officers before the commission on April 24. The commission unanimously voted June 8 to accept the committee's recommendations.

The newly installed commission chair is Wendy Stivers, Ph.D., extension specialist for 4-H Youth Development at the University of Kentucky's Cooperative Extension Service. Stivers joined the commission in 2004.

Doug Adams is the new vice chair. Adams is the Superintendent for Clay County Public Schools and has been on the commission since 2000.

Phyllis Culp was installed as commission secretary. Culp, appointed in 2004, is a nurse consultant with the Kentucky Division of Aging Services.

The commission's finance officer is Cindy Ferrell, a commissioner since 2004. Ferrell is director of Senior Service Corps for Audubon Area Community Service, Inc.

We are pleased to welcome new leadership to the commission and extend our best wishes for successful terms.



tions for 278 new and 126 continuation programs.

Only 90 new programs were funded, most of which focused on disaster relief. KCCVS submitted nine competitive program applications and received funding for two new programs: Getting Things Done for Kentucky's Homeless and Louisville Metro Government. Kentucky also received funding for both continuation programs: FRYSC Corps and GRADD Homeland Security Corps.

Twelve states/territories received no funding. Kentucky's four successful programs represent a significant accomplishment for which we're grateful and proud.

In addition to our fully funded competitive programs, the commission also supports formula-funded programs that provide funding for additional AmeriCorps members according to a formula based on population. This year, the KCCVS saw nine member slots cut (from 98 to 89) despite having requested formula funding for 115 members. This reduction in member positions left the KCCVS Program Committee with some tough decisions to make.

The committee had earlier determined that in the event we had fewer member slots to fill, decisions would be made based on factors including geographic/political subdivisions served, alignment with the governor's initiatives and commission-defined objectives, community need, cost-benefit ratio, competitive application process rankings, number of members requested, potential for sustainability, collaboration/partnerships formed and program innovation.

After much debate, the Program Committee selected for funding the Every 1 Reads AmeriCorps Program, Kentucky Youth Leadership Corps, Senior Connections, SERV Corps and The Learning Corps. Descriptions of all 2006-2007 programs follow.

Between competitive- and formula-funded programs, during this program year the commonwealth will benefit from the service of 172 AmeriCorps members who will be tutoring children, working with the homeless, helping the elderly remain independent, building capacity for low-income community agencies, recruiting volunteers to respond in times of disaster, mobilizing resources to address youth priorities and more.

Every 1 Reads AmeriCorps Program

New formula-funded program

Sponsor: Jefferson County Public Schools

Number of members: 10

Description: Members will help expand Every 1 Reads (E1R),

a community-wide literacy training partnership between business, local government and Jefferson County Public Schools targeting academically at-risk students. Members also will recruit and train community volunteers as tutors.

FRYSC Corps

Continuation competitive-funded program

Sponsor: Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services

Number of members: 25

Description: Under the supervision of Family Resource and Youth Service Center coordinators, members will apply the Great Leaps reading and literacy program to tutor academically at-risk students.

Getting Things Done for Kentucky's Homeless

Competitive-funded program

Sponsor: Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky

Number of members: 28

Description: Members will counsel low-income families/individuals to help them acquire permanent and/or transitional housing. Members also will serve as construction assistants for non-profit agencies, rehabilitating and constructing housing in low-income communities.

GRADD Homeland Security Corps

Continuation competitive-funded program

Sponsor: Green River Area Development District

Number of members: 10

Description: Members will serve with rapid response agencies to educate individuals in public safety, public health and disaster preparedness issues; train agency-affiliated volunteers; and help improve collaboration among local response agencies.

Kentucky Youth Leadership Corps

Formula-funded program

Sponsor: Kentucky Child Now!

Number of members: 16

Description: Members will support existing youth initiatives and identify and mobilize resources to expand efforts to address local priorities for youth; train in best practices and developmental outcomes to enhance organization, program and project quality and efficiency; and help recruit, educate and manage youth and adult volunteers.

Louisville Metro AmeriCorps Program

New competitive-funded program

Sponsor: Louisville Metro Community Action Partnership

Number of members: 20

Description: Members will help families in low-income urban communities fulfill their health, nutrition, education and human services needs by building capacity and social capital. Members serving with community organizations will recruit and support volunteers to expand capacity and enhance agency responses to community needs.

Senior Connections

Formula-funded program

Sponsor: Green River Area Development District

Number of members: 20

Description: Members will help improve quality of life for at-

risk, low-income elderly by providing in-home assistance with chores, home repairs, home management, caregiver relief, benefit counseling and home safety education. Members will develop and participate in senior-centered activities, train in disaster response and help with community projects.

SERV Corps (Service Educators Recruiting Volunteers)

New formula-funded program

Sponsor: Eastern Kentucky University

Number of members: 20

Description: Members will tutor at-risk students in reading and support drug avoidance measures by serving as drug education coordinators at their service site schools.

The Learning Corps

New formula-funded program

Sponsor: Barren County School District

Number of members: 23

Description: Through structured reading and math tutoring sessions, members and community volunteers will raise reading comprehension and math levels of K-8 students. Members also will help recruit and train volunteers to tutor students.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

April Smith

You may have wondered what happens to Kentucky's AmeriCorps members when they complete their terms of service. And, we have, too.

To satisfy our curiosity, The Heart Line has added a new feature, Where Are They Now? to highlight former AmeriCorps members and what they're doing now. We hope you enjoy reading about them as much as we've enjoyed catching up with them.



April Smith served with the Getting Things Done for Kentucky's Homeless program of the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky (HHCK). Born and raised in Hazard, Smith is a graduate of Hazard High School and attended Transylvania University in Lexington where she earned her bachelor's degree in sociology. Afterward, she went straight to graduate school at the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning where she earned a master's degree in community planning. Her sociology and planning education led to a personal interest in low-income/public housing issues, which then led her to HHCK's program after graduation. In addition to a desire to return to Lexington, Smith also wanted to gain work experience and get a foot in the door toward a long-term career.

Smith served as an AmeriCorps member with the HHCK from Sept. 2001 to Aug. 2003. In her first year of service, Smith was assigned to Resources, Education, Assistance for Community Housing, a non-profit organization committed to making housing more affordable for low-income individuals and families. While there, she made connections with the Lexington Habitat for Humanity where she completed her

second year of service. Smith then went to work full-time for Habitat and says she "can't imagine working anywhere else."

Smith has been involved in both family service and volunteer coordination with Habitat and since January she has focused her efforts exclusively on volunteer coordination. "We have a great staff, great volunteers and great partner families and homeowners," she said.

Smith used her two education awards from AmeriCorps service toward paying off student loans. "I can't imagine how long it would have taken to make so much progress on paying off my student loans living on a non-profit job salary without the AmeriCorps education awards," she said. "I believe it was worth the sacrifice of living on the AmeriCorps living allowance for two years."

Smith also spends time volunteering as an advisor with the Transylvania chapter of her college sorority, Chi Omega. She said her experience at Transylvania was so positive and meant so much to her that it was important for her to give back. She also volunteers with other non-profit organizations as her time allows.

With her continued commitment to providing quality, affordable housing to the residents of Fayette County and to the students at Transylvania, April is a shining example of the AmeriCorps spirit!

GTD4KY Spotlight (continued from cover page)

family has only three days to find a place to go. Money concerns ultimately cause the family to separate for a week. The children stay with a friend of the family and the mother and father stay with Wendy. The family searches along with Wendy, but hope is running out. Finally, with a stroke of luck, a house becomes available. The owner does not know the family and is hesitant to rent to them. But, on the strength of Wendy's recommendation – who had built strong relationships within the community – the owner agrees to rent the house.

The family is still playing catch-up on bills, groceries, and everything else from this difficult encounter, but they have the ability to do so because of the stability that comes with having a safe and secure place to live.

Wendy reports that the family has repeatedly thanked her for what she considers as "just doing her job" and they still say when they pull into the driveway at the end of the day, how astonished they are that they live in the house and are able to call it home.

Wendy believes that as an AmeriCorps member, her job never ends. "As long as there are people that need help, I will help them. I will serve after regular hours if that's what it takes. And any time I can offer a modicum of hope, I will – because that is my personal motto. As long as there is hope, a solution can be found and that is why I do what I do with the Getting Things Done for Kentucky's Homeless AmeriCorps program."

Submitted by Jake Mercier, GTD4KY program director

The ABC's of the ADA, Part Two

In the previous issue of The Heart Line, part one of this series on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) covered who is protected by this law. This issue addresses the various sections of the ADA and the government agencies that enforce these provisions.

The ADA is broken down into five major sections called titles. These sections address prohibitions against discrimination on the grounds of disability in the areas of employment, government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation and telecommunications, as well as other miscellaneous provisions.

Title I – Employment

Title I prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities by businesses with 15 or more employees. These businesses are required to provide reasonable accommodations to known physical or mental limitations of qualified applicants, unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the employer. Examples of such accommodations include changing the layout of workstations, modifying existing equipment and providing readers or interpreters.

Other employment-related issues addressed in this section include protection against discrimination in the application and hiring processes, wages and other benefits. For instance, this section limits the type of questions employers may ask about applicants' disabilities before a job offer is made. A complaint concerning provisions of Title I may be filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) within 180 days of the date of discrimination, or 300 days if the charge is filed with a designated state or local fair employment practices agency. Individuals may file a lawsuit in federal court only after receiving a "right-to-sue" letter from the EEOC.

Title II - Activities of state and local governments

Title II requires state and local governments to extend equal opportunity to the benefits of their programs, services and activities to people with disabilities. Examples of government services or activities covered by this section include public education, transportation, recreation, social services and voting. Governments do not need to remove physical barriers, such as stairs, in all existing buildings, as long as their programs remain accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Title II also attempts to ensure that people with disabilities have access to existing public transportation services by requiring all new buses to be accessible and that transit authorities provide alternative transportation services for riders who cannot use fixed-route bus service. Complaints regarding Title II discrimination may be filed with the Department of Justice or in private lawsuits brought in federal court. It is not necessary to receive a "right-to-sue" letter before going to federal court.

Title III - Public accommodations

Title III covers a broad range of private businesses and non-

profit service providers such as restaurants, retail stores, hotels, movie theaters, private schools, day care centers, doctors' offices, recreation facilities, zoos, convention centers, fitness clubs and sports stadiums, which are required to comply with basic nondiscrimination requirements that prohibit exclusion. Specific architectural standards must be met for new buildings and barriers in existing buildings must be removed where it is reasonable to do so.

All new construction and major renovations of existing public facilities must comply with ADA accessibility guidelines and all public accommodations must include auxiliary aids for persons with visual, hearing or sensory impairments. Title III complaints may be filed with the Department of Justice or through private law suits in federal court.

Title IV - Telecommunications

Title IV addresses telephone and television access for people with hearing and speech disabilities. Telephone companies must provide telecommunications relay services (TRS) that allow individuals with hearing impairments to communicate using a TTY (teletypewriter) TDD (telecommunication devices for the deaf) or other non-voice devices. This section also requires all television public service announcements funded with federal dollars to include closed captioning. Violations of this section are filed with the Federal Communications Commission, which must resolve complaints alleging violations of this section within 180 days of the date complaints are filed.

Title V - Miscellaneous provisions

Title V addresses such topics as how the ADA relates to other federal and state laws, the inclusion of Congress under the law and the ability to recoup attorney fees. Title V also establishes a mechanism for technical assistance along with specific instructions to many federal agencies required to implement the act. This section prohibits threatening or retaliating against a person with a disability or people attempting to aid persons with a disabilities in asserting their rights under the ADA. These provisions apply to all sections of the ADA.

The ADA provides broad protections, but interpretations of its provisions are left to the specific entities subject to the act. The EEOC files employment-related grievances and the Department of Justice or by private law suits in federal court have jurisdiction over complaints related to building and construction guidelines.

Because some topics such as public transportation are addressed by more than one title of the ADA, (and more than one act of Congress), it is important to know which complaints pertain to which regulations and laws. The ADA was enacted to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities, but it is our responsibility to make proper use of this awesome inclusion tool.

Submitted by Lanny Taulbee, KCCVS Disabilities Coordinator

Reference materials for this article include:
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, www.eeoc.gov
Job Accommodation Network, www.jan.wvu.edu
U.S. Department of Justice, www.usdoj.gov
WorkWORLD, www.workworld.org

FREE PAINT FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS



Each year, million of gallons of paint go unused or unsold. The National Council on Paint Disposition, a non-profit environmental organization, is compiling a list of non-profit organizations interested in receiving free paint. You only take as much as you can use. To join this

list, e-mail marvgoodman@paintrecycling.org, call (732) 309-2022, or visit www.paintrecycling.org/register.htm.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

Various KCCVS staff and commissioners and AmeriCorps program directors recently attended the National Conference on Volunteering and Service in Seattle June 18-20. Convened by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Points of Light Foundation, the conference is an annual gathering of 2,400 leaders of America's volunteer and service sector who come together to gain skills and develop strategies to engage more Americans more effectively in volunteer service to meet pressing social needs. Visit our Web site, www.chfs.ky.gov/dhss/kccvs/news to read what some of the attendees had to say about their experience at the conference.

VOLUNTEERISM IN KENTUCKY

Volunteerism alive and well in Kentucky



By Byron Crawford
The Courier-Journal
June 18, 2006

The parting advice from a few World War II veteran friends, as I left for military training during the late 1960s, was: "Never volunteer for anything."

Their advice stuck — until I was drafted by the Salvation Army a few years later for bell-ringing duty one Christmas near my workplace in downtown Cincinnati.

In the evenings I left the bell and red kettle feeling a deeper sense of satisfaction and reward for my bell-ringing than for the eight hours I had spent pounding out stories on a Royal typewriter in a smoke-filled newsroom.

It all came back to me as I was thumbing through "Volunteering in America," the Corporation for National & Community Service's new report on how much — or how little — we volunteer.

You fared pretty well, Kentucky.

In fact, the number of volunteers in Kentucky increased from 895,000 in 2002 to more than 1 million in 2005. Most of you spent a median 48 hours a year on volunteer activities — good enough to place Kentucky 27th in the state rankings for volunteerism.

We finished just behind Ohio, Maryland and Oklahoma, and just ahead of Illinois, Indiana and North Carolina. "The Volunteer State," Tennessee, ranked 41st.

The top 10 in order were: Utah, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Alaska, Wyoming, South Dakota, Kansas, Vermont and Montana.

Young adults in Kentucky and Indiana, ages 16-24, are volunteering at a rate equal to or slightly above the national average of 24 percent. Baby-boomers in both states mirrored the national volunteerism rate for their age group of about 34 percent. Seniors in Kentucky also kept pace with the national average of 24 percent, while Indiana seniors were two percentage points higher.

The more than 24 percent of volunteers of Hispanic ethnicity in Kentucky exceeded the South and national averages by about 9 percent.

Mara Maldonado of Louisville's Adelante Hispanic Achievers was not surprised by the relatively high rate of volunteerism, which she credits largely to a willingness to help others among many of the people with whom she has worked.

Edgardo Mansilla, executive director of the Americana Community Center in Louisville, believes the volunteerism rate among Kentucky's Hispanics is an expression of commitment to society and to citizenship.

"I think that it is mostly the sense of gratitude and trying to bring back something to the community," said Mansilla. "Most of us here are first generation, so we are doing whatever we can do for our kids to show that we are part of the society. It's very important."

While the overall volunteerism figures for Kentucky may be encouraging, the up-close picture is not always so rosy.

Michelle Garrett, who began as a Meals on Wheels volunteer, now serves as social services supervisor for the Louisville Metro Nutrition Program, which relies on about 400 volunteers.

"We're kind of beating the streets right now," said Garrett. "We do 23 routes a day, and right now a quarter of those are open. I don't know if it has to do with gas prices or seniors themselves going back to work — either because they were tired of sitting at home or their prescriptions weren't covered by insurance like they thought, or they're using up their retirement too fast. I think it's a combination."

The report reveals that Kentuckians 35 to 44 were more likely to volunteer than any other age group, mostly for religious organizations, general labor or supplying transportation.

"You walk away feeling like you've made a difference, even if it's only for that day," Garrett said. "I was a schoolteacher and started doing it in the summer for something to do — and fell in love with it."

Byron Crawford's column appears on the Metro page Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. You can reach him at (502) 582-4791 or e-mail him at bcrawford@courier-journal.com. You can also read his columns at www.courier-journal.com.

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WHAT'S ON OUR CALENDAR?

JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

2006

July 4 – Independence Day

July 23 – Parents' Day, www.parentsday.com

August 6 – Friendship Day, www.friendship.com.au/friendday.html

August 26 – Women's Equality Day

September 4 – Labor Day, observed

September 11 – National Grandparents Day, www.grandparents-day.com

September 11 – Patriot Day

September 11 – One Day's Pay, www.onedayspay.org

September 15 – POW/MIA Recognition Day,

www.dtic.mil/dpmo/powday/index.htm

September 23 – Autumnal Equinox, first day of Fall

September 23 – Rosh Hashana (Jewish)

September 24 – Ramadan begins (Islamic)

September 27-29 – 2006 AmeriCorps Launch

October 2 – Yom Kippur (Jewish)

October 9 – Columbus Day, observed

October 13 – Last day of Sukkot (Jewish)

October 19 – Lailat Ul Qadr (Islamic)

October 22-28 – Kids Care Week, www.kidscare.org

October 24 – Eid-al-Fitr (Islamic)

October 28 – Make A Difference Day, www.usaweekend.com/diffday/

October 29 – Daylight Savings Time ends

October 31 – Halloween

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NEXT EDITION:

- 2006 AmeriCorps Launch report
- Make A Difference Day 2006 report
- Commissioner Spotlight: Wendy Stivers
- Program Spotlight: The Learning Corps
- Local Volunteer Stories



Kentucky is a place where spirits are free to soar and big dreams can be fulfilled. We relish competition and cherish our champions for their willingness to push beyond conventional boundaries to reach new heights of success.



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